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ABSTRACT

This document examines competitiveness in the developing world. Chapters 1 through 3, which are largely conceptual, examine the following topics: the concept of competitiveness and why it is important; market-stimulating technology policies in developing countries, and the relationship between import liberalization and industrial performance. Chapter 4 discusses developing countries' recent performance in the area of manufactured exports, provides a comprehensive mapping of their competitiveness in technological terms, and identifies deficiencies in received trade theory in explaining the diversity and dynamism of exports by developing countries. Chapter 5 explores the skill needs of competitiveness and provides several useful indices of skill creation throughout the world. Chapter 6 presents a survey of the impact of multinational corporations on technology transfer to developing countries and export competitiveness in developing countries. Chapter 7 reviews the recent literature on technological capabilities and traces how Asia's newly industrializing economies have accumulated technological capabilities. Chapters 8 through 11 present case studies of the following countries and issues: (1) India's manufactured exports; (2) competitiveness challenges in Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines; (3) technology policies in Indonesia; and (4) transfer and development of technology in Kenya and Tanzania. One hundred twenty-nine tables/figures/boxes are included. All chapters include substantial bibliographies. (Author/MN)